Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned
Fast Food counter at Kumbh Mela Allahabad	3.18
Development of Nehru Ghats at Allahabad	37.18
Public conveniences at nine places (Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Haridwar, Farukhabad, Agra, Mathura, Allahabad, Varanasi and Lucknow)	60.56
Yatri Niwas at Chitrakoot	35.74
Setting up of tented accommodation at Nandprayag	6.38
Yatri Shed at Haridwar including public conveniences	20.68
Tented accommodation at Vrindavan	10.00
Improvement of Ghats at Bateshwar	20.00
Triveni Ghat at Rishikesh	23.97
Meditation centre at Sarnath	28.24
Visitor's centre at Sarnath	64.71
Development around Chaukhandi Stupa	3.40
Flood lighting of Varanasi Ghats	16.50
Restaurant-cum-waiting hall, Sravasti	12.26
Restaurant-cum-waiting hall Kushinagar	12.25
Yatri Niwas at Ayodhya	27.47
Reception centre at Rishikesh	20.00

New tourism policy of Gujarat

3331. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat have apprised the Central Government of the new tourism policy of the State;

(b) if so, the main features of the said policy;

(c) whether the tourism industry in the State is existing in the name only as a result of which the foreign tourists could not be attracted;

(d) what are the reasons for not constructing/establishing any five star hotel so far at Vadodara and Ahmedabad in the state;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the so called tourists places are lacking in respect of accommodation facilities; and

(f) if so, Governments' reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has announced the New Tourism Policy and accordingly the Central Department of Tourism, Government of India has been apprised.

Following are some salient features of the Policy:

— Tax exemption for tourism projects.

— Industry status to tourism sector

— Assistance in land procurement and allotment of wasteland

— A fast track mechanism for tourism project approval

— Private sector to be encouraged for setting-up tourism projects in the State

(c) In keeping with its Industry status, the State Govt. has exempted it from seeking prior permission for conversion of agriculture land into non-agriculture and made tourism projects eligible for allotment of Govt. waste land. The State

Government has launched several fairs and festivals and the 'The Royal Orient Train' to attract foreign tourists.

The Govt. has come out with a tax-holiday scheme for new tourism projects.

(d) There are two 5-Star Hotels. One each in Ahmedabad and Vadodara. Another 5 Star hotel in Vadodara is under construction.

(e) and (f) The State Govt. is trying to privatise the properties owned by its corporation so that these properties are upgraded, expanded and activised.

Development of tourism in Tamil Nadu

3332. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of fund allocated for the development of tourism in Tamil Nadu during the current financial year;

(b) what amount would be allocated to Kanyakumari, Ooty Kodaikanal for their development;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the places of historical importance like kanyakumari;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) Deptt. of Tourism, Government of Indian prioritises schemes/projects every year in consultation with the State Govts. for central financial assistance. For the current financial year 1997-98, the proposals from the State Govt. of Tamil Nadu are awaited;

(c) and (e) From the VIIth plan onwards, Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India has sanctioned funds to develop the places of historical importance such as Kanyakumari. Details are given in statement.

Statement

Central Financial Assistance Sanctioned to Tamil Nadu to the Places of Historical Importance from VIIth Plan onwards

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
	VIITH FIVE YEAR PLAN	
1.	Yatri Niwas at Kanchipuram	34.00
2.	Construction of 8 beach cottages at Kanyakumari	13.36
3.	Tourist Reception Centre with accomodation at Rameshwaram	18.45
4.	Cafetaria at Kanyakumari	6.02
5.	Tourist amenities at bathing ghats at Kanyakumari	3.57
6.	Tourist amenities at bathing ghats at Papanasam	3.57